

Message Text

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53

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 /085 W

----- 116228

R 191230Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3979

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 1240

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TAGS, SUBJECT, AND TEXT)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR SS MR SP AG MO

SUBJECT: SPANISH SAHARA: ANOTHER VIEW OF MAURITANIA'S
TERRITORIAL ASPIRATIONS

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 1219

1. IN CONTRAST TO HIS TWICE REPEATED ASSERTION TO
USAMBASSADOR THAT MAURITANIA EXTENDS "AT LEAST AS FAR
NORTH AS EL-AAIUN", MAURITANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MOUKNASS
JUNE 17 TOLD VISITING, DAKAR-BASED, CANADIAN AMBASSADOR
ANDRE COURVETTE THAT MAURITANIA'S TERRITORIAL ASPIRATIONS
EXTENDED NORTHWARD "AT LEAST TO VILLA CISNEROS". REMAINDER
OF HISTORIC, ETHNIC, CULTURAL, AND FAMILY TIES EXPLANATION
OF AND JUSTIFICATION FOR MAURITANIAN CLAIM OF SAHARAN
TERRITORY PARALLELED EXACTLY MAY 31 AND JUNE 13
PRESENTATIONS REPORTED REFTEL.

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2. REASONS UNDERLYING SHARP AND SUDDEN REDUCTION OF

MAURITANIAN TERRITORIAL AMBITIONS BY SHIFT OF PROJECTED
PARTITION LINE 400 KILOMETERS TO SOUTH ARE NOT IMMEDIATELY
APPARENT. ALTERATION OF ORAL FORMULA MAY NOT IN FACT
HAVE ANY SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE. ON OTHER HAND, IT IS
CONCEIVABLE THAT AFTER REFLECTION OR FURTHER COMMUNICATION
WITH RABAT DURING FOUR DAY INTERVAL, GIRM MAY HAVE RE-
ADJUSTED ITS ASPIRATIONS TO FIT REALITY OF MOROCCO'S
SUPERIOR POLITICAL WEIGHT. FINALLY, IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE
THAT MOUKNASS FOR SOME TACTICAL REASON HAS DECIDED TO
QUOTE AMERICANS HIS ASKING PRICE WHILE REVEALING HIS
SETTLEMENT PRICE TO CANADIANS. HANDYSIDE

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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